

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-34. (Canceled)

35. (New) A slider of a thin-film magnetic head comprising:

a slider section having a first medium facing surface that faces toward a rotating recording medium and an air inflow end; and

an element section having a second medium facing surface that faces toward the recording medium, an air outflow end, and a thin-film magnetic head element, wherein:

the first medium facing surface has concavities and convexities for controlling the orientation of the slider section while the recording medium is rotating;

the slider section and the element section are bonded to each other such that the air inflow end and the air outflow end are disposed on opposite sides with the first and second medium facing surfaces in between;

the first medium facing surface has a first surface closer to the element section, a second surface closer to the air inflow end, and a border portion located between the first and second surfaces, wherein the second surface is slanted against the first surface such that the first and second surfaces make a convex shape bent at the border portion; and

regardless of whether the recording medium is rotating or at rest, the slider section is in contact with the surface of the recording medium at the border portion, and the first surface and the second surface slant against the surface of the recording medium such that the element section and the air inflow end are off the recording medium.

36. (New) A slider of a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 35, wherein:

the slider section has a substrate portion and a medium facing layer placed on the substrate portion;

the first medium facing surface is formed on the medium facing layer;

the element section has an insulating portion surrounding the thin-film magnetic head element;

the substrate portion has a hardness greater than that of the insulating portion; and
as the substrate portion and the medium facing layer are compared in hardness, the hardness of the medium facing layer is closer to the hardness of the insulating portion.

37. (New) A slider of a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 35, wherein the second surface and the surface of the recording medium form an angle of 30° or smaller while the recording medium is rotating.

38. (New) A slider of a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 35, wherein the first surface and the second surface form an angle of 30° or smaller.

39. (New) A slider of a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 35, wherein the first medium facing surface has a recess formed in a region including the border portion.

40. (New) A slider of a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 35, wherein the second medium facing surface is disposed farther from the recording medium than the first surface of the first medium facing surface is.

41. (New) A slider of a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 35, wherein the thin-film magnetic head element comprises a magnetoresistive element for reproduction and an induction-type electromagnetic transducer for recording, the electromagnetic transducer being disposed farther from the slider section than the magnetoresistive element is.